

re in 2013, measures P and V. Measure P (9) was passed in 2003 and 2007, and measure V (\$165) in 2009. The purpose of the two taxes were, and are, to protect the schools, teaching and support staff, and

is a way to ensure local, stable funding," said Dora de la Rosa, president of the Board of Education.

There still will be a senior exemption to aid those on a fixed income. What is different this

including the facilities construction bonds, measures R and S.

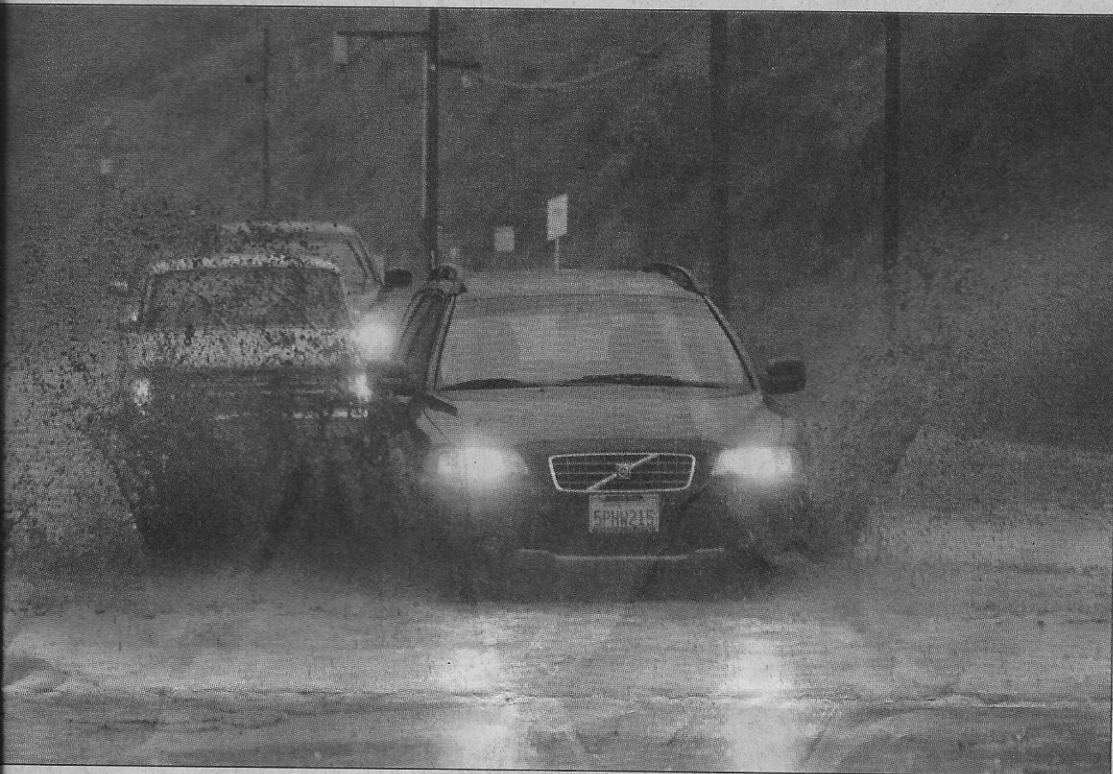
"This takes a lot of work, to do this every three years. ... We don't want to keep doing

MEASURE A14

ballot is Nov. 1.

• Election Day is Nov. 8.

AN RAMON CANYON



er and mud from San Ramon Canyon floods Palos Verdes Drive South-25th Street at the Rancho Palos Verdes and San Pedro border during a heavy rain. The city is in line for a \$9.4-million grant that will go toward the city's stormwater repair project.

Grant could be in hand soon

is in line for \$9.4 million in state funds toward the San Ramon Canyon stormwater control project.

ry Scott
ula News

— If all goes well the city of Palos Verdes could be awarded a \$9.4-million grant from the state Department of Water Resources for its San Ramon Canyon Stormwater Flood Control Project. The amount is half of what the city needs to control the mud, silt and water that run from San Ramon Canyon to Palos Verdes Drive South-25th Street on the RPV and San Pedro border during heavy rains.

Every winter since 2005, when the Palos Verdes Shores mobile home park was hit by a mudslide, rainwater has slammed down rocks from the canyon, flooded Drive South/25th Street. Some residents, not yielding caution signs, often find their cars stuck in the mud. The mud is several feet deep and bubbles beneath the water. Each time the road floods, it also endangers the Palos Verdes Shores mobile home park on the ocean side of PV South/25th Street.

In March, the RPV City Council approved a nearly \$20-million plan to control the runoff and the eroding road causing it. The plan is to build a storm drain with an inlet above the Palos Verdes Shores mobile home park, about midway down the canyon. The new drain will

be tunneled 60 feet under PV Drive East and PV Drive South; a pipe will carry water down to the ocean where it outlets at the bluffs. The plan also includes filling in the canyon below the inlet with 30 feet of dirt to stabilize the landslide and switchbacks.

Now the city just needs the money to fund the work.

Although the *News* initially reported last week that the grant had been awarded, there is actually a 15-day public comment period, which ends on Oct. 5, before DWR Director Mark Cowin gives the final approval. Nevertheless, there is excitement at City Hall.

"This is good news," Mayor Tom Long said. "The funding amount, if approved, would provide the city a grant equal to almost half of its typical annual general fund budget. It provides an amount of money that would take the city years to accumulate on its own if it were even possible to do so. If the grant is awarded the project becomes much more likely to proceed in the near future."

The San Ramon project is one of 41 projects seeking funding from the state's Stormwater Flood Management Grant. Seventeen, including the San Ramon project, received a recommendation for all or partial funding. Ranked eighth out of those 17 projects, the city stands a good chance in receiving the money.

"This is the culmination of years of hard work by city staff with full support from the council," Long said. "We

are lucky to have staff with the skills and motivation necessary to pursue a complicated and highly competitive grant application."

The state funds, if granted, must be matched.

"The city is lobbying the federal government for that money," Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Missetich said. "Basically, we're asking half from the state and half from the federal government."

Currently Congress is trying to come up with a bill that will address infrastructure needs in the nation. But it may be some time before there's an agreement, if any.

The state grant gives the city two years to acquire the additional funds. If the federal money does not materialize, RPV has \$7.5 million in the city's capital improvement project reserves that could be used. RPV could approach the city of Los Angeles and L.A. County to help with the remaining \$1.9 million.

"It affects all three of us and we have agreed in principal that we should all address the problem," Missetich said.

With winter around the corner and the possibility of more storms rolling through there is a sense of urgency in getting the funds and beginning the project, which could begin as early as September 2012.

RPV is sharing clean-up duty with the city of L.A. in the interim, Missetich said.

"I'm hoping the rainfall won't be as much this year," he added.

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Volunteers discover less trash

By Robert Doss
Special to the News

An energetic and enthusiastic crowd turned out at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park to participate in the International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 17.

In total, 253 volunteers took part in this year's cleanup, which is up more than 30 percent from last year.

"The increase was largely due to the record number of youth volunteers who were seeking community service hours," Tamara Vollmer, co-captain of the event, said. "One eyewitness said it was like watching hundreds of vacuums crisscrossing the beach."

The event also provided an opportunity for public outreach by the Los Serenos de Point Vicente Interpretive Center, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and city council election hopefuls, who all manned their respective information booths.

"There were two groups of trash collectors that made the trek to Sacred Cove," Vollmer said. "They retrieved a great deal of fish paraphernalia and picnic remains."

A total of 1,105 pounds of trash and recyclable material were removed from a two-and-a-half mile stretch along the Palos Verdes coastline between Abalone Cove and Sacred Cove.

Heal the Bay, which calculates and documents statistics from more than 50 cleanup sites in the South Bay area, shows that 11,000 volunteers participated and collected 22 tons of trash during this year's International Coastal Cleanup Day. Last year, an estimated 14,131 volunteers collected more than 51 tons of trash.

"Less trash is a very good thing," Vollmer said. "It supports that growing public awareness about runoff pollutants is making a difference or that people and special interest groups are making a point to clean up trash more frequently."

In contrast, the Abalone Cove site reported a 32-percent increase in volunteers and a 78 percent increase in the amount of trash collected over last year.

"The importance of community involvement in trash removal is essential to improving the public awareness of coastal pollution: People must see firsthand the impact they leave on our environment," Vollmer said. "Only when each individual understands his or her responsibility to do the right thing, will we begin to realize a significant improvement to this massive problem."

Robert Doss is a freelance writer and a frequent contributor of the News.

uling in lawsuit over district parcels is finalized

ver. Last month Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Richard "tentatively" ruled that the deed restrictions on the Palos Verdes Peninsula School District-owned lots, known as lots C and D in 31, in Palos Verdes Estates, are enforceable. Last week Fruin

2032 and 2100 Via Pacheco. The deed restrictions limit the properties use. When the Homes Association deeded the property to the school district's predecessor, the association included that the properties were to be used only for school, park or recreational purposes. The association also limited

servitude allows the enforcement of the restrictions. The district argued that the restrictions had expired under the Marketable Record Title Act of 1982, which eliminates restrictions from documents 30 years or more from date of transfer. However, the MRTA does not apply to proper-

said Philip Frengs, the association's board of directors president.

"The court's decision means that the Palos Verdes community can rely on the fact that the district's school properties included in the transfer from PVHA in 1938 may not be declared surplus and developed as